

When I was younger, the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) came to my Mosque to speak about injustice towards Muslims around the United States, and I knew immediately that I wanted to become an attorney to fight for Muslims and people of color in the legal system. As a Muslim woman of color, I have moved forward in my academic career focusing on political science with a minor in law, diversity, and justice so I can best advocate and fight for the members of my diverse community. My voice and experiences are not heard in most academic or professional spaces, though my education has allowed me to join those spaces. I have fought to give others and myself a voice in these academic and professional settings. Getting a public administration degree will make me better able to understand the systems that create the laws and rules, and will broaden my understanding to then one day make me a better attorney, and better able to serve those communities. The Master of Public Administration will give me the resources and education to advocate for Muslims and people of color.

Public administration will help me be able to understand the intersecting portions of the state agencies and law together so I can better navigate those spaces. Public administration helps navigate the law, so I have a more complete and coherent view of how the systems work together. Evergreen's interdisciplinary approach within the program will allow me to build a greater understanding of social, political, and historical contexts. This degree will allow me to advocate and create social change within my community. As I have navigated academic and professional spaces, I have consistently advocated for diverse ideas to be heard.

Embracing diversity for me means more than accessing diverse opinions; it involves having those diverse voices heard. Evergreen's focus on social justice and interdisciplinary studies will allow me to continue to work toward understanding diversity and social justice. In my minor, I worked to understand the reasons behind the inequalities that permeate our society. A large portion of my degree was spent on understanding this degree will allow me to understand and change those systems so I can advocate for more diverse voices to be acknowledged and heard.

Evergreen itself holds a special place for me; a large portion of my childhood was spent at Evergreen State College, and both my parents received their Master's of Public Administration at Evergreen State College which demonstrated how an education could help someone achieve their goals. I grew up at Evergreen, and there is a part of my values and upbringing that is part of my parents going to Evergreen. Watching my parents succeed in their careers and goals and supporting me has given me the courage to fight for justice and equity. Evergreen's philosophy of social justice and equity has inspired me to move toward my goal of fighting for justice both locally and globally.

Evergreen's program embodies the aspects of my career that I have continued to strive towards through advocating for marginalized groups. My goal of advocating for social justice is not done individually, but instead through working collaboratively with people with diverse ideas to help shape a better future for future generations. Whether it's through community organizing, policy advocacy, or legal representation, I am committed to amplifying the voices of those often marginalized by mainstream

discourse. I saw how social change is created by working with other students at Western Washington University toward unionization efforts for academic workers. The experience has demonstrated to me the importance of collaboratively working towards a goal. I want to use public administration to work collaboratively with others to fight for social justice with members of my local and global community. Evergreen will help me hone my analytical and reasoning skills so to best understand the complex aspects of public administration to create social change.

As I move forward in my goals of becoming an attorney and using an understanding of public administration, I am confident that this degree at Evergreen will help me create social change within our global and local community and help me succeed in my goal of advocating for justice and equity.